

**PUNKS BEFORE**

**PROFITS #10**

**2 YEARS OF MISPELLED WORDS**

**WHAT'S**

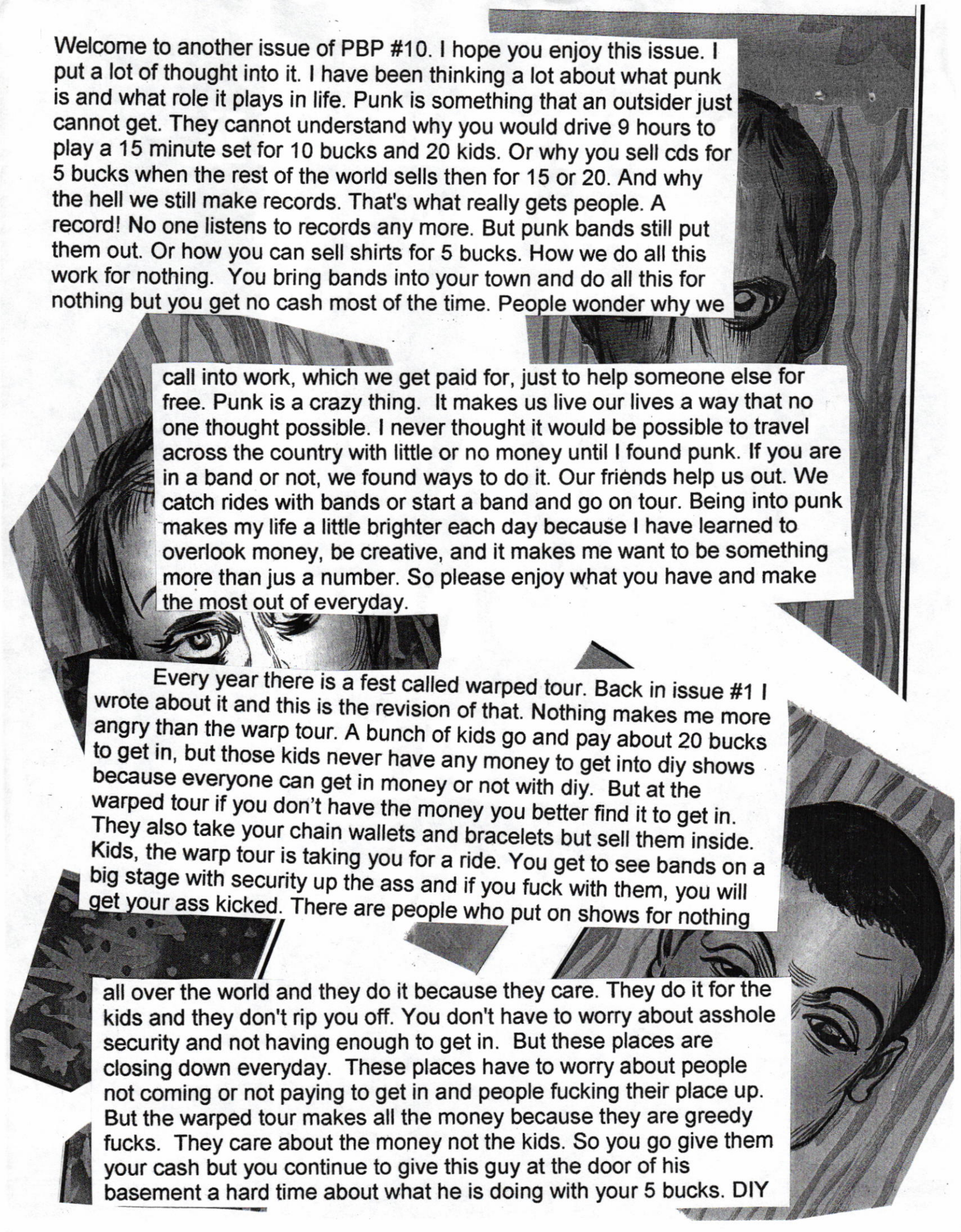
**PUNK**

**MEAN,**

**ANYWAY**

**?**





Welcome to another issue of PBP #10. I hope you enjoy this issue. I put a lot of thought into it. I have been thinking a lot about what punk is and what role it plays in life. Punk is something that an outsider just cannot get. They cannot understand why you would drive 9 hours to play a 15 minute set for 10 bucks and 20 kids. Or why you sell cds for 5 bucks when the rest of the world sells them for 15 or 20. And why the hell we still make records. That's what really gets people. A record! No one listens to records any more. But punk bands still put them out. Or how you can sell shirts for 5 bucks. How we do all this work for nothing. You bring bands into your town and do all this for nothing but you get no cash most of the time. People wonder why we

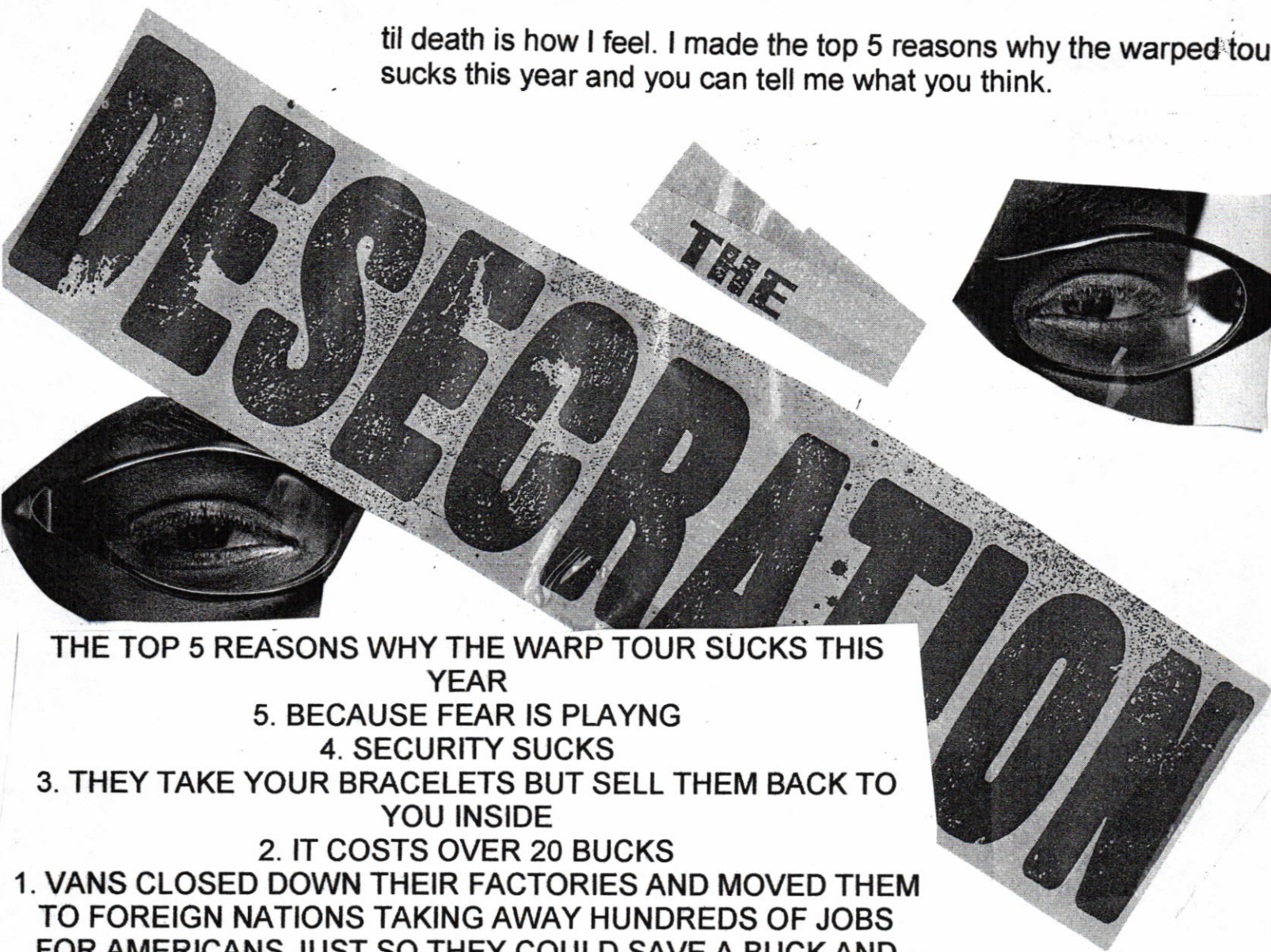
call into work, which we get paid for, just to help someone else for free. Punk is a crazy thing. It makes us live our lives a way that no one thought possible. I never thought it would be possible to travel across the country with little or no money until I found punk. If you are in a band or not, we found ways to do it. Our friends help us out. We catch rides with bands or start a band and go on tour. Being into punk makes my life a little brighter each day because I have learned to overlook money, be creative, and it makes me want to be something more than just a number. So please enjoy what you have and make the most out of everyday.

Every year there is a fest called warped tour. Back in issue #1 I wrote about it and this is the revision of that. Nothing makes me more angry than the warp tour. A bunch of kids go and pay about 20 bucks to get in, but those kids never have any money to get into diy shows because everyone can get in money or not with diy. But at the warped tour if you don't have the money you better find it to get in. They also take your chain wallets and bracelets but sell them inside. Kids, the warp tour is taking you for a ride. You get to see bands on a big stage with security up the ass and if you fuck with them, you will get your ass kicked. There are people who put on shows for nothing

all over the world and they do it because they care. They do it for the kids and they don't rip you off. You don't have to worry about asshole security and not having enough to get in. But these places are closing down everyday. These places have to worry about people not coming or not paying to get in and people fucking their place up. But the warped tour makes all the money because they are greedy fucks. They care about the money not the kids. So you go give them your cash but you continue to give this guy at the door of his basement a hard time about what he is doing with your 5 bucks. DIY



til death is how I feel. I made the top 5 reasons why the warped tour sucks this year and you can tell me what you think.



## THE TOP 5 REASONS WHY THE WARP TOUR SUCKS THIS YEAR

5. BECAUSE FEAR IS PLAYING

4. SECURITY SUCKS

3. THEY TAKE YOUR BRACELETS BUT SELL THEM BACK TO YOU INSIDE

2. IT COSTS OVER 20 BUCKS

1. VANS CLOSED DOWN THEIR FACTORIES AND MOVED THEM TO FOREIGN NATIONS TAKING AWAY HUNDREDS OF JOBS FOR AMERICANS JUST SO THEY COULD SAVE A BUCK AND PAY SLAVE WAGES. WITH THE WAY FEAR IS PRO AMERICA, IT SUPRISES ME THAT THEY WOULD SUPPORT SUCH A GROUP AND ALSO WITH THE WAY THEY GAVE THESE JOBS TO FOREIGNERS. COME ON LEE VING, YOU HAVE TO STAND FOR SOMETHING.

One more thing about the warped tour, If one more kid tells me they didn't pay to get in their parents paid for it I am going to flip. Well tell you parents to pay for you to get into real punk shows. You can pay for 5 with that money compared to one warped tour. And to all of you old fucks that go only to warped tour once a year and say how commercial and sucky it is, well fuck you then. The underground punk scene is doing really well. I am 24 and I help run a collective space that puts on punk shows all the time. So you want to be 30 and only go to one show a year? You have no space to talk about anything. I would love to hear from people on this subject. This is something that has bothered me for 3 years. I was at the first warped tour and I thought it was a good idea then they took it the wrong way.  
PUNKS NOT DEAD ryan cappelletti



Welcome to pbp #10. I have been doing this zine with ryan for a while now but no one ever really knew it because I wasn't doing as much. Doing a zine or co-doing one takes more than spell checking it or collecting articles from people. And up until this issue that is all I did. I am really proud of what this zine is and all everyone puts into it. Back in 1999, ryan started punks before profits. He just did it and tried to spread some sort of info. The stuff you don't see on tv or read in the Olean Times Herald. When I <sup>first</sup> got into the local scene here, I picked up a copy of this and was really blown away. Zines were so interesting. They said anything. And that was awesome. Another zine started up locally called Epoch. I think that is awesome that this girl also had the same idea that ryan did in wanting to do more than just go to shows. If everyone took advantage of shows, then there would be no one putting them on. This issue is about 'what does punk means to you?' Some of the kids here who are very involved wrote articles. In olean the scene is very awesome. It is a close-knit family and we have a collective called cobra la. We have a great thing going here and I hope no one screws that up for everyone. Throwing your crap everywhere and drinking in the parking lot is lame and selfish. No one likes cleaning up after inconsiderate people. But if there is no one who cares, then everything will fall part. You can tell by these articles that these kids do. That there is more to punk than hair and spikes. It's more than being rude. It's about change and unity. It's about helping people. It's about not being an a hole to everyone and about everything. Everyone wonders why punk has a bad reputation. Back in the day, spitting on people was cool. Well guess what. Things have changed. People work for that change. Stop making us look bad. And start to help. We can't accomplish anything unless we are a whole. So next time you are at a show, stay after to clean up. Nothing can be fixed unless we try.

barb yuhas

you said that all the girls in your life seem to have some association with Jawbreaker, and that when we weren't together anymore I would end up buying a Ford Escort like your other ex-girlfriends. I decided to leave the state, buy a bike, and find a boy who likes Jawbreaker and used to have a Ford Escort instead.

*brainstem zine*

P.O. Box 1432 Portland Oregon 97208  
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# PUNK IS MORE.....MUCH MORE

by Ryan Cappelletti

I was in 7th grade and I found this thing called skateboarding. It was amazing to me. The way they dressed and the groups they skated in, and the music they listened to. It was so cool. I was big into rap at the time and I still enjoy it, but then rap was my thing. I had 'yo mtv raps' shaved into my head and I wanted all the high priced cool clothes. One day I got the 12 tapes for a penny deal (you know what I mean). Well I ordered all the rap tapes, but there was this band called 24 7 spyz in with the bunch I ordered. Around the same time they also appeared in thrasher so I was like, 'ya this is going to rock'. So I popped it in and I hated it. It was thrash skaterock type stuff. All the skater kids liked that stuff so I thought, "man, I got to get into that stuff." The big bands when I was in 8th grade were D.R.I. and THE MISFITS and stuff like that and METALLICA. I bought Justice For All when it first came out and I hated that too, but I made myself listen to it. After awhile I loved all of it. The rap thing was over I wanted to skate and listen to punk, and wear big clothes and ripped up shoes. Then one day I was in a village green bookstore and I found a MRR. I had no idea what it was, but you could tell it was punk as fuck so I bought it. I spent days not reading the issue I bought, but looking at the pictures of all the kids with spiked hair and leather jackets and dog collars and all that cool shit. The town I lived in had a huge skater punk scene but not any spiky

haired punks. I was blown away. I don't think I ever read that issue of MRR. When the pictures got old I got rid of it. That's what I wanted to be. I wanted a mohawk. So I went and got one.

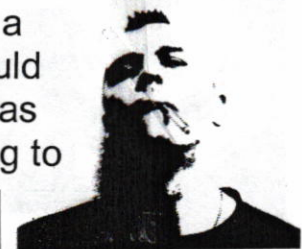
I did not know anything about punk but I looked punk, and at the time, I thought that's what really counted. I started listening to more and more punk bands. Like the meatmen, sex pistols, chaos uk and stuff like that. From 15 to 19 I went to a lot of shows, and spiked my hair a lot, and bought a lot of records. But it was all fashion. I walked the walk and talked the talk on the surface. I didn't really take the time to find out more about what I was involved in. Well not really





until 19. But for a good part of my teen years, I just went to shows and hung out and drank a lot.

When I was too young to drive there where a group of hardcore kids that went to the hardcore shows in buffalo. So I used to tag along every once and while. One time I went and I was wearing a minor threat t shirt and some kid came up to me and said he could not believe I was wearing a minor threat t shirt and smoking. I was young so I felt stupid and I hated those shows so I stopped going to



the hardcore shows. I thought, "man I am punk and no one is going tell me what to do."

My town did not have too many shows. When I was really young we had a ton of kids but few shows. It was just a lot of fun parties. They did have a few that I can remember. Some kid rented out this old movie theatre and did a couple shows there. During one of them, I was sitting in this chair with a couple of my friends. We were ripping this chair apart because we were 14 and punk. There was this guy, an older punk, that came up to me and said "what the fuck are you doing, trying to get the shows shut down." We were like, 'man that guys not punk. What an asshole.' So shows stopped happening and the people who did care moved on and and left town. When I was 16 and 17, the scene in my town was dead. There was no punk scene except me and a couple of my friends looking punk. There was this fest going on near Erie pa and the meatmen/the attics and chaos uk were playing so I thought that show was going to rule. My friend tommy knew these 2 guys who were going so we got a ride. This was the first time I met these two guys and the last so I really cannot remember both their names but one of them was named eric. We got there and saw some really good bands, but we waited all day for the meatmen to play. During the day I met this guy. Everybody cailed him the old man. He was this old guy who put on the fest and was the nicest guy. I was shocked that there was this guy that just did all this shit for all these people for nothing, and the fact that he was older and still cared about so much. I knew as soon as I met him that what he did was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. So the time came and the meatmen hit the stage playing all the classics and in all there 'fuck you' glory. About half way into their set, the kid I went with got on stage to do a stage dive, but the problem was there was only 2 rows of people. So he did this huge stage dive over all the people and landed on the ground. He landed and just laid there in this fetal position, and it looked like he could not move. So people stopped watching the meatmen and started to see what was wrong with this kid. Tesco (singer of the meatmen) got on the mic and said, 'what the fuck, let the kid lay there.' So a good





portion of the kids did. I kept looking back at him but I also kept listening to the meatmen. They were cut off right after people found out how serious it was. The meatmen packed up their shit as the people were trying to take care of Eric. The old man was very upset about what happened. He was in the back crying and blaming himself

for what happened to Eric. Then tesco vee came up and said, 'give us our money. We are out of here.' He had nothing to say about the kid. Nothing, just give me my money I want to leave. That is not a rumor. I was there while the helicopters were coming in to get Eric because he could not move. Another guy who helped with the show got on the mic and asked if everybody could stick around and help

pick up because they could not do it by themselves. So a couple of drunk people in the crowd yelled a couple things like 'do it yourself' and a lot of people just stood there. I was like 'what is the matter with you people. We are here to help each other. This is bullshit.' But just less then an hour ago I was dancing to tesco vee and not helping my

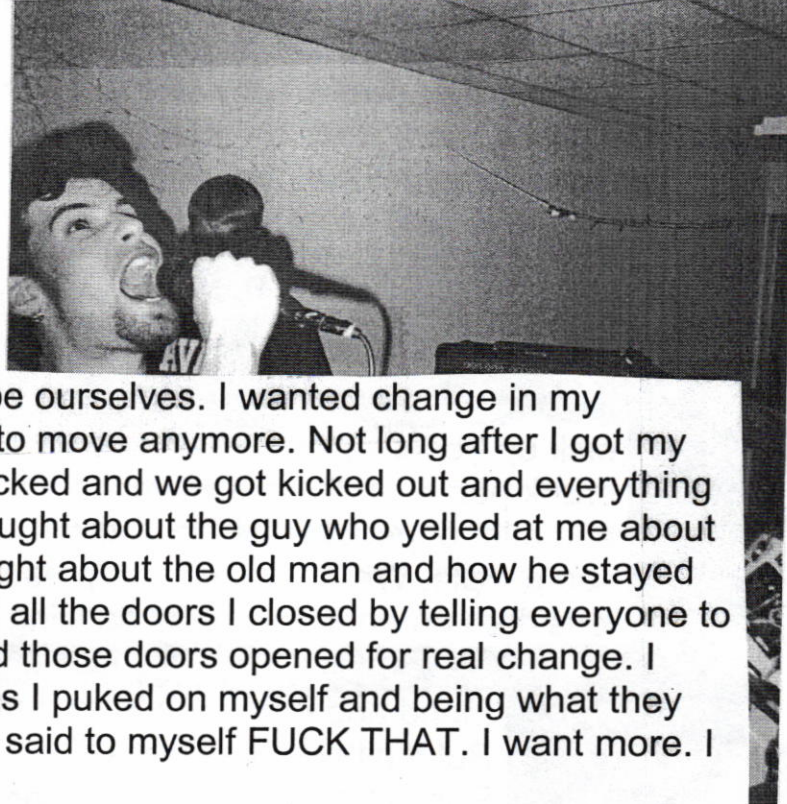
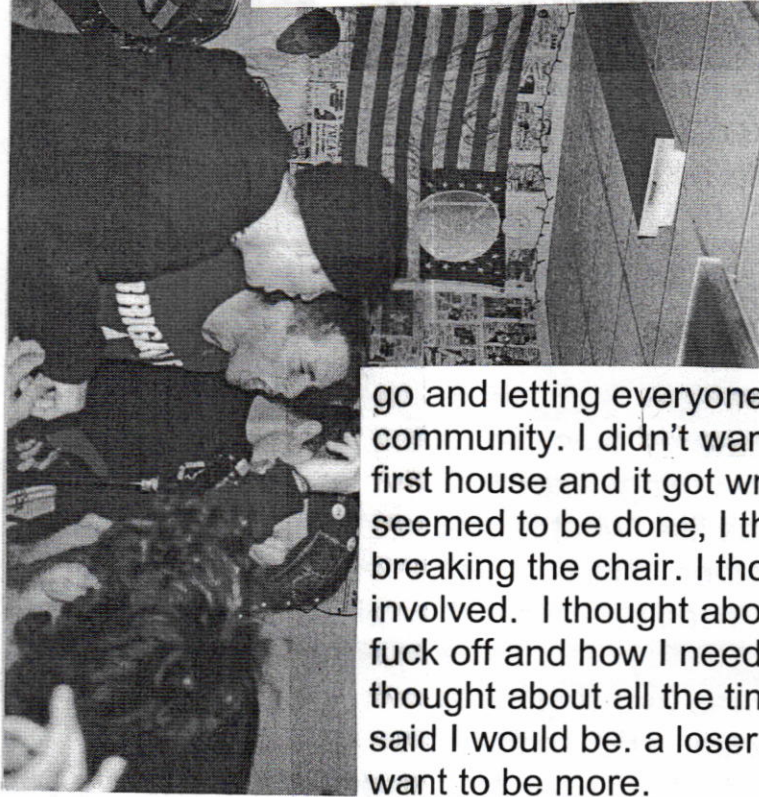
friend and 4 hours before that I was throwing my shit on the ground. But it hit me all at once like a fucking brick to the side of the head. Punk is more than a mohawk and an attitude. We headed off to Erie to sit in the hospital for the rest of the night and see what was wrong with Eric. The old man and his friend stayed there with us also the whole time we were there. Eric is now crippled for life never to walk again. I never talked to him again after that night. I heard he just went into a stage of depression. I came back to Olean with a whole new look on punk rock. I was only 16 at the time so I was still a fuck up but I cared a little bit more. I wanted to do more but had no idea how.

So just thought about things I could do like put on shows and start a zine. So just spent the next couple years drinking and going to shows. I knew punk was more than my hair but I kept doing what I was supposed to do -run around and swear and wave my middle finger high. I never forgot about the old man and what I learned at that show but I never wanted to be the odd one saying (dude that's not cool. Don't brake that. Don't swear at people) I never wanted to be that guy. I hated at that guy at the show in Olean for telling me not to break that chair. So I followed for while more. I watched my community slowly die and I just bitched and drank. Endless nights I spent talking about how I was going to do this and do that just as soon as I got sober, but by the time I got sober I forgot my idea. I was



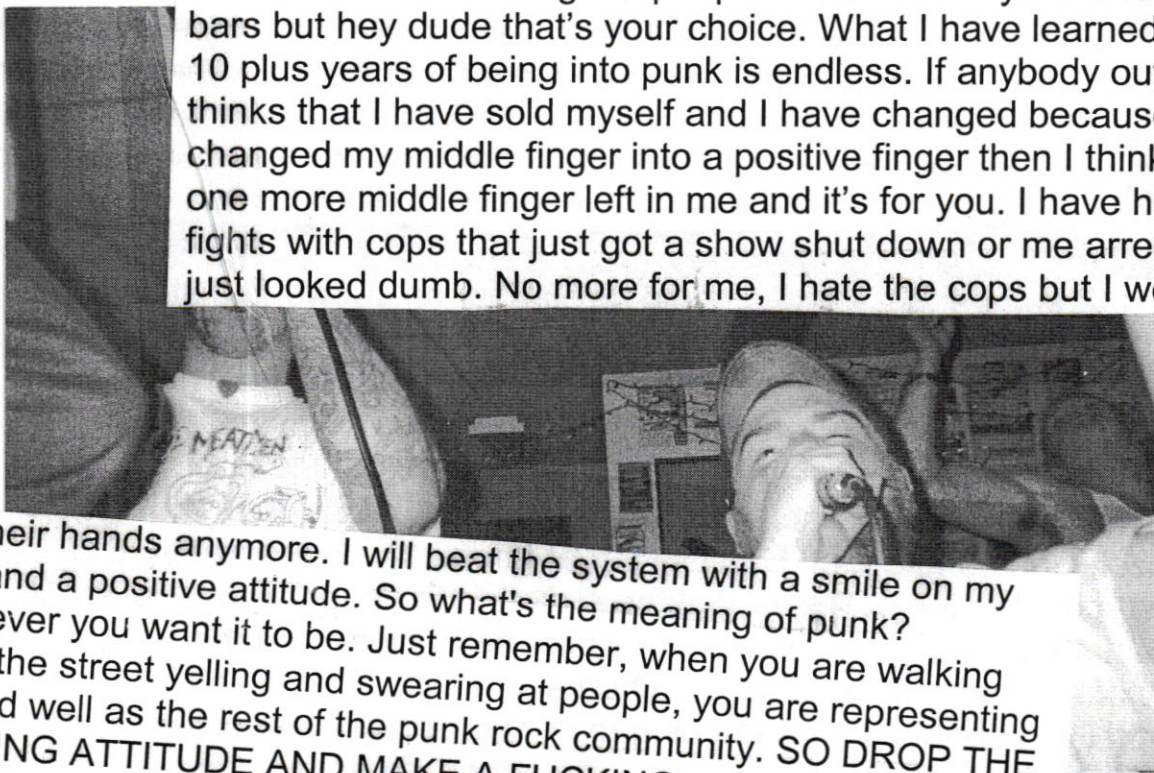
told punk was doing what I wanted. Fuck all the rules, I never needed them. Just keep my middle finger high in the air.

I hit 20 and it all started to change I was sick to death of the shit around me. I wanted more. I wanted change, something to be proud of. I was involved with punk for about 7 years. At the time, all I had to show for it was a lot of empty beer bottles. I didn't stop drinking then but started trying to rebuild my community with shows and a place to



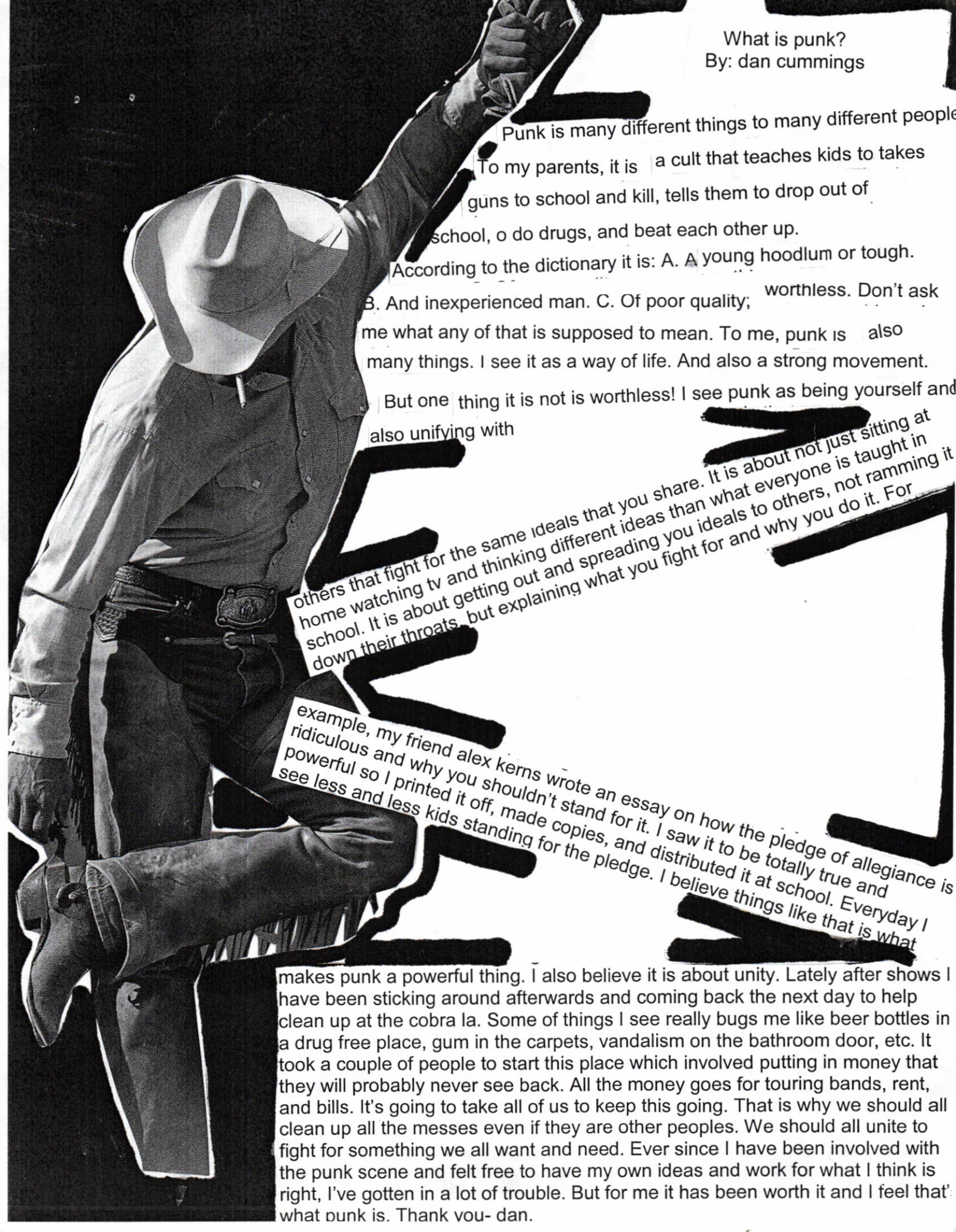
go and letting everyone be ourselves. I wanted change in my community. I didn't want to move anymore. Not long after I got my first house and it got wrecked and we got kicked out and everything seemed to be done, I thought about the guy who yelled at me about breaking the chair. I thought about the old man and how he stayed involved. I thought about all the doors I closed by telling everyone to fuck off and how I needed those doors opened for real change. I thought about all the times I puked on myself and being what they said I would be. a loser. I said to myself FUCK THAT. I want more. I want to be more.

That's right .I am a fucking punk rocker still today. I am now 24 and I have watched tons of good people walk out of my life and into the bars but hey dude that's your choice. What I have learned in the past 10 plus years of being into punk is endless. If anybody out there thinks that I have sold myself and I have changed because I have changed my middle finger into a positive finger then I think I do have one more middle finger left in me and it's for you. I have had endless fights with cops that just got a show shut down or me arrested and i just looked dumb. No more for me, I hate the cops but I won't play



into their hands anymore. I will beat the system with a smile on my face and a positive attitude. So what's the meaning of punk? Whatever you want it to be. Just remember, when you are walking down the street yelling and swearing at people, you are representing me and well as the rest of the punk rock community. SO DROP THE FUCKING ATTITUDE AND MAKE A FUCKING CHANGE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!





What is punk?  
By: dan cummings

Punk is many different things to many different people. To my parents, it is a cult that teaches kids to take guns to school and kill, tells them to drop out of school, or do drugs, and beat each other up. According to the dictionary it is: A. A young hoodlum or tough. B. And inexperienced man. C. Of poor quality; worthless. Don't ask me what any of that is supposed to mean. To me, punk is also many things. I see it as a way of life. And also a strong movement. But one thing it is not is worthless! I see punk as being yourself and also unifying with

others that fight for the same ideals that you share. It is about not just sitting at home watching tv and thinking different ideas than what everyone is taught in school. It is about getting out and spreading your ideals to others, not ramming it down their throats, but explaining what you fight for and why you do it. For example, my friend alex kerns wrote an essay on how the pledge of allegiance is ridiculous and why you shouldn't stand for it. I saw it to be totally true and powerful so I printed it off, made copies, and distributed it at school. Everyday I see less and less kids standing for the pledge. I believe things like that is what

makes punk a powerful thing. I also believe it is about unity. Lately after shows I have been sticking around afterwards and coming back the next day to help clean up at the cobra la. Some of things I see really bugs me like beer bottles in a drug free place, gum in the carpets, vandalism on the bathroom door, etc. It took a couple of people to start this place which involved putting in money that they will probably never see back. All the money goes for touring bands, rent, and bills. It's going to take all of us to keep this going. That is why we should all clean up all the messes even if they are other peoples. We should all unite to fight for something we all want and need. Ever since I have been involved with the punk scene and felt free to have my own ideas and work for what I think is right, I've gotten in a lot of trouble. But for me it has been worth it and I feel that's what punk is. Thank you- dan.



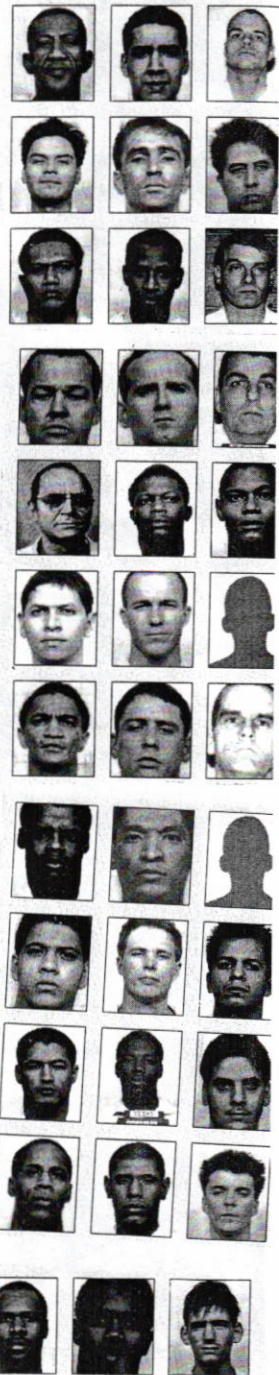
# 135 EXECUTED UNDER BUSH

Texas leads the nation in executing inmates but ranks near the bottom in giving fair treatment to poor defendants. This spells deep trouble for people with no money accused of capital murder.



## You Might Be a Gutterpunk If... by Cutter Kay Oss

... you have ever cut or dyed your hair in a public restroom.  
... the peanuts character pigpen was based on you.  
... the cops call a street sweeper instead of a paddy wagon to arrest you.  
... you find a new pair of pants, and when you take off the old ones, they stand up by themselves.  
... you have ever uttered "spare cash for white trash?"  
... today is still the same day it was when you woke up, whether it's 3 am or three days later.  
... the girl scouts hold a special fundraiser to buy you a shower.  
... you know every nook and cranny of your local transportation system, including where you can sneak on for free, which bus drivers let you sleep on their route, and which terminals aren't regularly patrolled by the transit authority.  
... you don't have enough money in your pocket for a little debbie's snack, but you make DAMN sure you can afford a ticket to the Unseen show.  
... the most horrible insult you can call someone is a "fascist"  
... you can only figure out the original color of your bondage pants by removing a patch.  
... the food not bombs workers know your entire life history, but don't know your real name.  
... speaking of real names, you haven't been called by your birth name since you were 12.  
... you have no musical knowledge, but you've played just about every instrument in a band at one time or another.  
... parents steer their children across the street when walking by you.  
... you insist tourists PAY you before they take a picture for the folks back home.  
and finally, you might be a gutterpunk if:  
... you actually laugh at this.





**R**especting **S**omeone **I**s **N**ot **A**C **r**ime **I**t  
**S**hould **B**e **D**one **A**ll **T**he **T**ime.

Well on to my reasoning for writing this letter. Over the years it has shocked me with the amount of bands that the punk scene has excepted from gg allin to slayer to the meatmen to project x/floorpunch/fear/early skrewdriver and many other bands. Lets start with slayer- a band that is very popular in the crust scene. They put out that punk tribute album with bands like DI/minor threat and a bunch more. Well on the minor threat song 'guilty of being white', they decided to change the end to guilty of being right. Everybody that heard this album knows they did this, but still punks support them. You go see a crust band and they will play a song about racism, a song about oppression, and a slayer song that makes no sense. Lets move on to the hardcore community.

I just saw a band not too long ago called KILLED IN ACTION. They are a really good band, but they did this song about hardcore assholes in the pit then they did dancefloor justice by PROJECT X. If you are not familiar with this song or band let me tell you a little about both. PROJECT X was a militant straight edge band that did the classic cover of straight edge revenge, which is a song about hurting people that do drugs. Dancefloor justice is about getting your revenge on the dance floor. THAT'S COOL. So one minute they talking shit about bands and people like them, but the next they are singing their song. Also there were people that were at that show that are members in bands. These bands are the ones that talk a lot about letting everybody in and not hurting people on the dancefloor and unity and all that stuff, but they were the ones singing along. I am involved with all angles of punk. I go to all the shows and when I put on shows I mix it up a lot. So my friend group likes all different types of music. When I go to hardcore shows and walk in the door, a band is playing straight edge revenge but then right after that they talk about unity. WHAT A BUNCH OF FUCKIN SHIT. Then on the other hand, bands like fear and meatmen are not as tolerated as bands like floorpunch and project x but still are excepted. Fear- what a band. If you like fear please take off all the anti sexist /anti racist and anti homophobic stuff of your jacket cause you are not any of them. You are all of them. But wait a minute, it's just a joke. It is meant to be funny. Well I have heard my share of racist jokes and some people I know like to or used to like to tell them. Lee Ving (singer for fear) has been telling them for over 20 years, but still punks are like (it is all a joke). What do the meatmen have to do to show you they are a bunch of fucking bigots. Please if want to listen to them then cool, but don't call them a punk band anymore. They polluted the punk scene too long.

There are 2 more bands I want to address and that is anal cunt and insult. Come on, these 2 bands have been ripping apart women and mentally handicap



people for far too long. When is it not a joke anymore? If these people want to make their records fine, but we don't have to except it in our scene anymore.

This also works the other way, let me explain. A lot of kids are going to read this and say, 'man this guy is a pc fag and say fear rules dude, they are so punk!' Well that's fine if you think that, but why don't you look at some of the bands you support. The dead kennedy's for one. You see all these anti pc kids running around with their shirts on. The other band is the subhumans. All these drunk punk fear-loving kids love the subhumans. Why? Who knows. Do they read the lyrics by either band? I don't think they could because both those bands were more political than most political bands today.

So maybe it's time to choose between the unity patch and the project x patch cause I don't think both will not fit on your hoody. And lets choose between the fear shirt or the subhumans shirt cause both just won't fit. I am not telling you what to listen to, but I think we need to look at the bands we like a little bit more. Those lyrics were placed in that record for a reason so maybe you should READ THEM. Ryan cappelletti po box 57 olean ny 14760

onekidintheback@hotmail.com

what punk means to me?

well ..what punk means to me is self-change, positive change. i can compare it to another positive change, straight-edge. i get alot hassle for being a punk from people outside the punk scene, but the thing that hurts me the most is punks, friends mostly giving me shit for being straight-edge, and thats not fair. One reason i got into punk was because it was a community of friends. and being made fun of and compared to a racist because, personally i think people that drink, and do drugs, and thats their life is just a waste. sorry for playing the part of the concerned guy. punk is not carrying a skateboard, wearing patches of bands you never heard of, or saying piss off and anarchy in the uk, if thats you wise up and be apart of something, and not a tool. punk is a broad group of people that listen to all types of music and have all types of politics or politics at all. i would like to put myself under the positive aspect group. people like racists, militants, homophobes, sexistas, and over the board pc's. straight-edge is not just for the hardcore community, ya i listen to hardcore( ex. bold, youth of today. xchorusx, floorpunch, the swarm), but i listen to other bands( ex. the ultimate warriors, kung fu rick, unholy grave, storm, saetia, not!) so i don't one side my liking of music. Punk means more than just the shows on the weekend. i help setup shows, contact bands, and i'm putting out a tape compilation, and i'm in a few bands, and projects so punk is pretty much life for me, and i wouldn't have it any way else, i enjoy to see out of town bands, and going to other towns to play in the band i'm in. to see that the scene reaches out to all places is great, the confidence of just going up to someone that is wearing a band that i like is great to know just that, you can relate to that person and not even know them. i know my article jumps to one idea to another but thats how i write ideas just come up and i write them, to be spontaneous is key. but as a overall answer, punk means a inside self-change, which is obtained by personal achievements, and community achievements. in conclusion the lyrics from not! " this scene needs a good kick in the ass" and---- " i've tasted my own blood and i want more."

by bodain (bodain007@yahoo.com)



what punk means to me. by barb yuhas

In the past year I have had to deal with a lot. A lot of decisions about my future. A lot of criticism from my family and friends about what I decided to do. And a lot of doubt about my choices. No one told me how to live. No one has to live with my decisions but me. And having the people closest to me telling me I had made a mistake was really hard. Right now I am finishing up school, I play in a band, help run a collective called cobra la in olean, and also live collectively. This is what I want to do. I don't want to go to college next fall and pay for it for the rest of my life. I don't want to work 9 to 5 to pay off my brand new car. I don't want to be tied down to all these things so it rules my life. About 1 1/2 ago that was what I wanted. I had seen no other way. When I started to get involved with punk, about 3 years ago, I started to see a lot different people living a different lifestyle. A lifestyle of helping other people, not existing to work, doing what makes you happy even if it isn't a life of so called "success". Maybe being successful isn't a big job and a big house. To me, that's not what happiness is. I guess an alternative lifestyle only became apparent when I got into punk. Back then there was a punk house where a lot of the kids lived over the years. Some had jobs but realized there was more to life than just working all the time. But it was sort of a window to something I had never experienced before. It was extremely appealing to me. I started hanging out more with these kids, one of which is my best friend to this day. At the time my life was taking this sort of transition. I guess my views on my future changed. I was getting a bunch of crap from my family and actually was not allowed to hang out with these kids. The most frustrating thing was that they had never even met my friends that they had a problem with. Everyone was so quick to judge based on looks. To add to that, my longtime friends were telling that I was making a mistake by questioning my attendance in the fall at fredonia and said that I had lost my faith. I repeatedly questioned my motives and future plans at that point. I was scared because I was brought up to live one way. My parents never said that I could go a different way. They had lived a normal life just like everyone else. High school-college-career-family-death. I am in no way bashing that life. That makes them happy. I on the other hand don't want to live like that. Recently my brother in law asked me why I do this. Why I live differently. He couldn't fathom why I wanted to do something else. I guess my answer to him



# MOUTH


is that no one should ever do something to please others. I won't go to school because my dad asks me to. I will go because that is what I want. I won't work some full time crap job so I can appear to be happy. So people will leave me alone. So I can roll in my money. Money is paper. You can't fill your empty void with paper. I want my life to have substance. Something I can look back on to see my personal accomplishments.

Over the past couple of years I have seen a lot of friends find better things to do. Find something more than shows and playing in bands. They grew out of it. They went to school and are pursuing other things. But what if everyone grew out of it? What would be left? Punk to me is not a pastime. Punk is not a phase. I won't grow out of it. I live it. I am happy doing things for our community. I have been told that doing cobra la is a waste of my time because I am not making money. Why is money everything? Why does my band have to make profit to be seen as a worthwhile lifestyle in the eyes of someone else? I get by with the money I get. I don't over work because having money isn't everything to me and I don't base my priorities on how I can financially make out better. I do things in life that I enjoy. No one can tell you that punk means nothing. No one can tell you that it is just music. Punk is what you make of it. I made it my life and I'll never look back.

TO

# MOUTH





Mohawks, Spikes, and Boots. Oi, Is this punk?  
(A.K.A. "What punk rock means to me.")



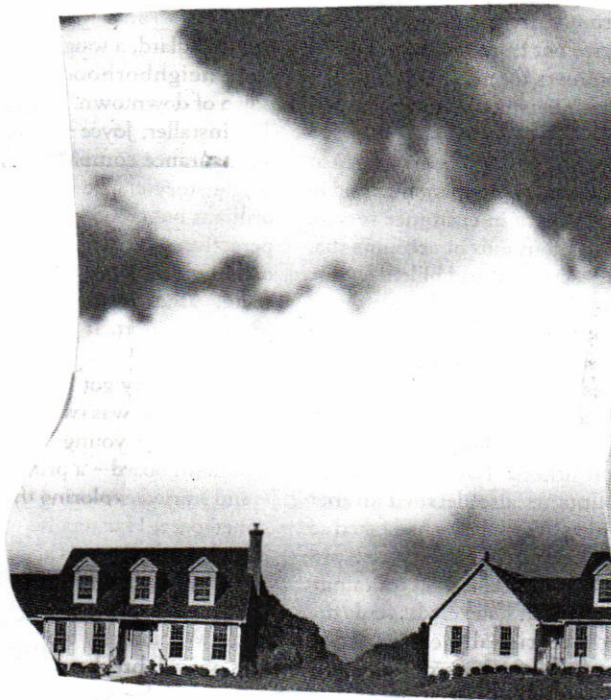
amy godfrey

First of all I think I need to say that I'm not punk. I don't think I am anyway. Not that I mind if I'm called punk, but even though punk does hold a certain priority to me... I don't think that necessarily makes me punk. Basically I just feel that if I say, "yeah I've been all about the punk rock from the start." Then I'd be a poser... because this is all fairly new to me, and I suppose compared to others I'm still fairly new to the scene.

When Ryan first asked me to write this "what punk means to me," thing I was excited, and thought that it would be really easy. When I first sat down about a month ago to write this I realized it would be a lot harder than I thought. And the more I thought about it the more I realized I don't even know what the hell punk really is. Punk rock is more than just music; there's a whole lifestyle that comes with it. Punk refers to music, but it also refers to style, politics, attitude, and I'm sure there are so many other things that I forgot to mention. I was talking about this with my friend Abbie about this. I told her that I don't even really know what it is that makes someone punk, and that I don't even think I'm punk... and she laughed at me. I never really thought of myself as punk. I don't really know what I am... but I also don't want to really label myself because it limits me to so many other possibilities. She said "look at your bag, you have patches and pins all over it... you only seem to listen to punk music... you mostly talk about stuff relating to the punk scene, you go to punk shows, you wear boots and your pants are rolled up high, you shaved your head... yeah, it's time you just admit to yourself that you are a punk." But I still don't feel like I'm a punk. I listen to punk music, but I also listen to indie rock, and jazz, and classical. The music my band plays is about as indie rock as it can get... but I only play punk venues. I don't know what this means, or even really what my point is. Because not everyone who sports a Mohawk, or a studded belt is necessarily punk. And I know people who listen to punk music, but are not punk... what I don't know is what the recipe for punk is. Because one doesn't have to have Mohawks and studded belts to be punk, and they don't have to have left wing politics, they don't have to preach "fuck the establishment, fuck school, fuck religion..." So what is my point? Maybe punk is just an inherent quality, some people just are punk, and that's just how it is. I have no idea.

One thing I've noticed that seems to be fairly particular to punk is the sense of unity amongst punks. I used to go to lots and lots of indie rock shows, and I still do go to some, and one thing that frustrates me the most is how cliquey they are. You go to shows and you hang out with who you know and don't meet new people. Everyone just has this sense of superiority; everyone is too busy trying to prove to everyone else that they're too cool for them that you don't get to know people. If you walk down the street and see someone wearing an Archers of Loaf shirt you think, they're not a real fan, they don't really understand indie, and walk past them. Indie Rock is pretentious. No, that's an understatement, Indie rock is extremely fucking pretentious. I'm not saying this to bash indie, because my roots are in indie. I come from a long line of indie rockers and am now the "black sheep" of the family, so to speak, for my involvement and not necessarily new, but newly expressed enjoyment of the punk rock.





I started listening to punk when I was in middle school. I suppose I started out how a lot of people did with Green Day, and Bikini Kill. However my interest was quickly put to rest when my brother would make fun of me, and now when I think about it it's silly that I cared so much, but at the time it mattered enough to me that I gave away my complete collection of green day tapes. Finally last year I just became so fed up with the pretentious Indie scene. I was sick of always hanging out with my friends and having it be a competition of who was more indie than the other, who could name the producer of the Wedding Presents second album, or who could make the most obscure reference, or who could talk about Mary Timony the longest. It just annoyed the hell out of me, and basically I just didn't give a shit anymore. This just happened to be the same time that my debate class partner, Brad, started inviting me to punk shows to see his band.

So I kept going to the shows, and you know what? I think I've had so many opportunities because of the punk scene than I have through any thing else, so I do think that I am better off. I never had the courage to play shows before, now I made a CD, I'm touring. I've met people I would have never met, I've been places I would have never gone, and I've done things I wouldn't have otherwise done (I know this sounds very schmaltzy...). So, anyway, back to the thesis... what does punk mean to me? I've been trying to think of a way to say these things without sounding too cliché, but it happens and we'll all learn to deal with it. When it comes right down to it I have no idea... but if I'm forced to come to a conclusion, I will come to that which I'm sure will probably be the conclusion to all of the other punk rock reflections... friends and opportunities.

(One last aside. I was once told that you determine how punk rock you are by how much you talk about how punk you are. Now if "punkness" were determined by how much one utilized the word "punk" based on this here article I would be pretty damn punk... seeing that I've used that word way too much in the past 1,200 words. Just to let you know.)





# LETTER TO ANI

I recently wrote to Ani DiFranco about her outrageous ticket prices for her concerts. Here is the series of letters and responses I recieved:

My name is Ryan Cappelletti I am writing in regards to your upcoming show in buffalo NY. I live in Olean NY you played here awhile back st bona's. I was out of town so did not make it. I am not shure, but I heard the ticket prices were around 10 bucks that's what I heard so I might be wrong. So I say you are coming to buffalo so I friend like to you want to go cause if so I will get you a ticket so I'm like ya. So she calls up the ticket place and they tell her 33 bucks total, and fuck that I can't afford that. The thing is the main thing that got me into your music is the message, and the powerful words behind it. I listen to punk and hardcore so the music is not my thing. With words like telling people we should aim the guns at mtv those damn corporate bastards, but what's makes you so different from them when your charging 33 bucks a ticket. I play in a political band and we have traveled all over the place, and got paid shit and stayed in parking lots, but we still reached people. I help run a free community art space here in Olean. We bring all types of bands from all over the place and we charge 5 bucks all the time. We do benefits for different things also charging 5 to 6 bucks and still giving some money away. We also have library there of different types of lit. to read. This place is there and it does not cost 33 bucks to get into. I know ticket master takes a sum of the money, but wasn't it funny when pearl jam did that boycott against ticketmaster, but they still charged 20 bucks a ticket, but this time just went right into there pockets. That was a pretty good scam. There are a huge number of political bands and active bands that check the places they play make shure ticket prices are ok maybe you should check into them. I am not saying there is a guide line you have to follow, but it kind of sucks when only the rich can go see you what kind of change is that making. 33 bucks is half of some people's weekly income so they prob. cannot afford to go. I am fed up with bands like rage against the machine saying we need the money to fund the revolution ya we do, but what if you can't afford to get into the revolution then what. They came through and charged 60 bucks WHAT THE FUCK.

Things to cost money, and real change will take some money, but you have a good following so even if you charged 5 bucks you would still like 2000 people and that's 10 grand you can really tell you can not put on a show for 10 grand. Come to Olean and play ~~the~~ <sup>our</sup> place and you can do it for free. So your words were pretty good it's just to bad I'll never here them live...

See ya RYAN CAPPELLETTI [onekidintheback@hotmail.com](mailto:onekidintheback@hotmail.com)  
Po box 57 Olean NY 14760





From the desk of  
Lauren Leadbetter

dear ryan,

Thank you for taking the time to write to us with your concerns. I understand why it can be frustrating to not be able to afford to go to a show because of the ticket prices. Let me make a couple points...

One is very independent as musicians go - she does this all herself - despite numerous offers from major labels.

Righteous Babe is very small - especially when considering the amount of CD's One releases - and the huge amount of touring she does. - there are about 14 people in the office that take care of all of that... think about it there are tons of people working at those major labels!

We just can't take on anything more right now - and yeah it totally sucks that tickets are so much - but we really have no other choice.

We do however use local promoters so that we can help out the smaller companies when possible - and so that we have more creative control.

Bottom line is we stayed using Ticketmaster - considering

the amount of other ~~big~~ adjustments that would

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From the desk of  
Lauren Leadbetter

have to be made - we're not sure that we would be able to save anyone any money..

I hope you can be sure that it is definitely not something that we do to "stick to ya" or anyone that wants to see ani. - we love ani's fans - we really really care how they perceive all of this - so I am really thankful that you wrote to us..!

also, I think it's excellent that you have an open mind enough to break out of your usual genre of music to appreciate ani's message. - a lot of people can't do that.

Thanks again for writing..!!

Peacefully,  
Lauren

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(I received a response from Lauren Leadbetter. My letter was for Ani to read directly.)

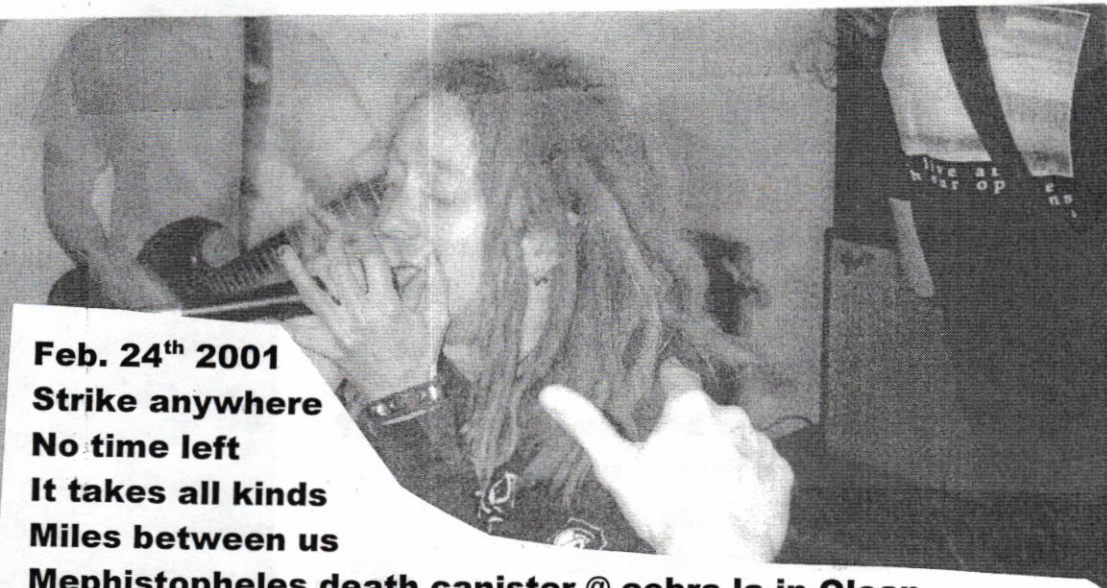
Thanks for getting back to me. So I guess ani is not a real person. Just some one we see on a stage or hear on a cd just another rock star. That's really too bad, I thought she meant it. Please do not turn people's letters into something that they are not. You disregarded my letter and wrote your own back. You said there is only 14 people working there and also you said you cannot take anymore on right now. What does that have to do with me not being able to get into the show because of the cost? That's great that ani is an independent rocker. That's so cool that there are a million others but the difference between her and many others is that they still exist. My letter was to ani, not to you. No offense, but I've never heard of you. I am not saying I would not like to get to know you, but my letter was to her. It was not a fan letter. I am sick to death of people getting on a stage and screaming for revolution. Well if the revolution happened tomorrow would ani be there or would she be too busy recording. It sucks that I will never be able to listen to another ani record because it lost all it's meaning. But who needs me when you got the upper class kissing her ass, but hold on she does everything on her own. I do it on my own too, but I think it might be a little easier if I got 33 bucks a ticket. And how much is a shirt and how much is a cd? I have put out my own cds. I know how much it costs. Have you ever gone to see a show in one of those places that ani is playing? Well I have. They take your drink. They take your food. They treat you like you have no rights. Then you get in and for whatever amount of time you are in there you are a slave to the man. You have to buy their food and their drinks or go hungry and thirsty. I just do not want to be a slave. Sorry. You also said IF you stopped using ticket master... well that is not the problem, they only make 3 or 4 bucks per ticket.

All the albums are great and all the shows too. But you stop being a person. You are just a song. Then what. What's the

difference between ani and someone on a major label I cannot talk to either? Well I will stop wasting my time because who knows who will read my letter this time. Please if ani does not have the time then I guess just toss it and if someone else wants to write me then do it so but not about this.

Ryan cappelletti onekidintheback@hotmail.com





**Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> 2001**

**Strike anywhere**

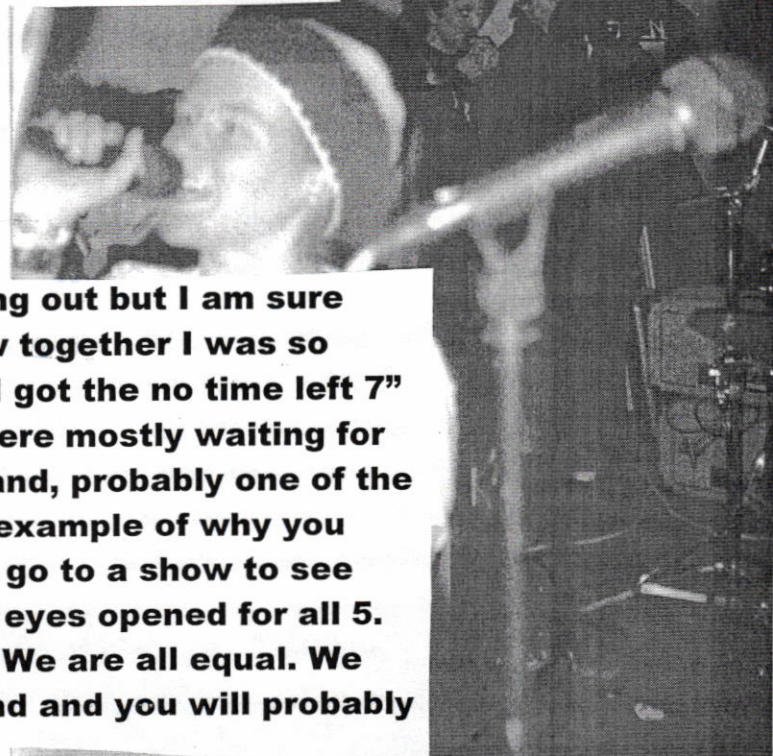
**No time left**

**It takes all kinds**

**Miles between us**

**Mephistopheles death canister @ cobra la in Olean**

**This was a show I was really looking forward to. I was really happy strike anywhere was coming to the cobra la. Mdc opened up and did a good set of grinding terror and then it takes all kinds were to follow. It takes all kinds is good semi new local band. They played a short set but it went well with some tech difficulties. Then strike anywhere played. They really rocked. It was cool to see so many kids in such a small place singing along and dancing. I am not really sure why they went on 3<sup>rd</sup> because a lot of people left right after they played. I think that's so lame to come to a show for only one band. Well people came and gone after strike anywhere but a good number of people stayed for the next band no time left. That is a good reason why you should not leave after the well known band played. No time left stole the show the best band that played that night. After no time left, miles between us played. Yet another good band with a lot of**

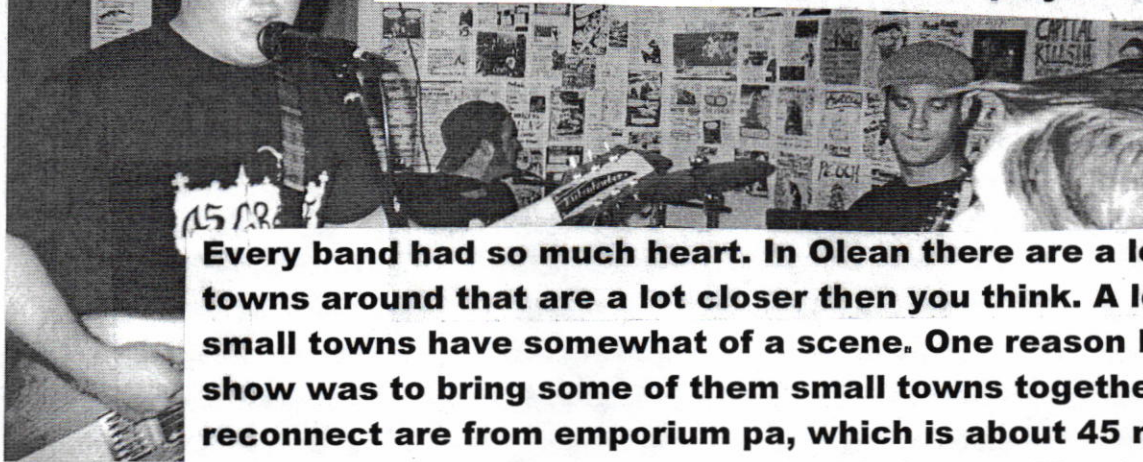


**heart also suffered from the crowd thinning out but I am sure then won some fans. When I put this show together I was so excited to see strike anywhere, but then I got the no time left 7" and I was blown away. After that I was there mostly waiting for no time left. Strike anywhere is a great band, probably one of the best bands of today. But this is a perfect example of why you should give all the bands a chance. If you go to a show to see one band but there is 5 playing keep your eyes opened for all 5. There is no headlining band in punk rock. We are all equal. We just play at different times. So stick around and you will probably find something you like.**



**PROJECT RECONNECT  
THE PULLOUT METHOD  
IT TAKES ALL KINDS  
THE FILTHY PRIMATES @cobra la in Olean**

**This show was sometime in April. The coolest thing about this show was that all the bands that played were just happy to play.**

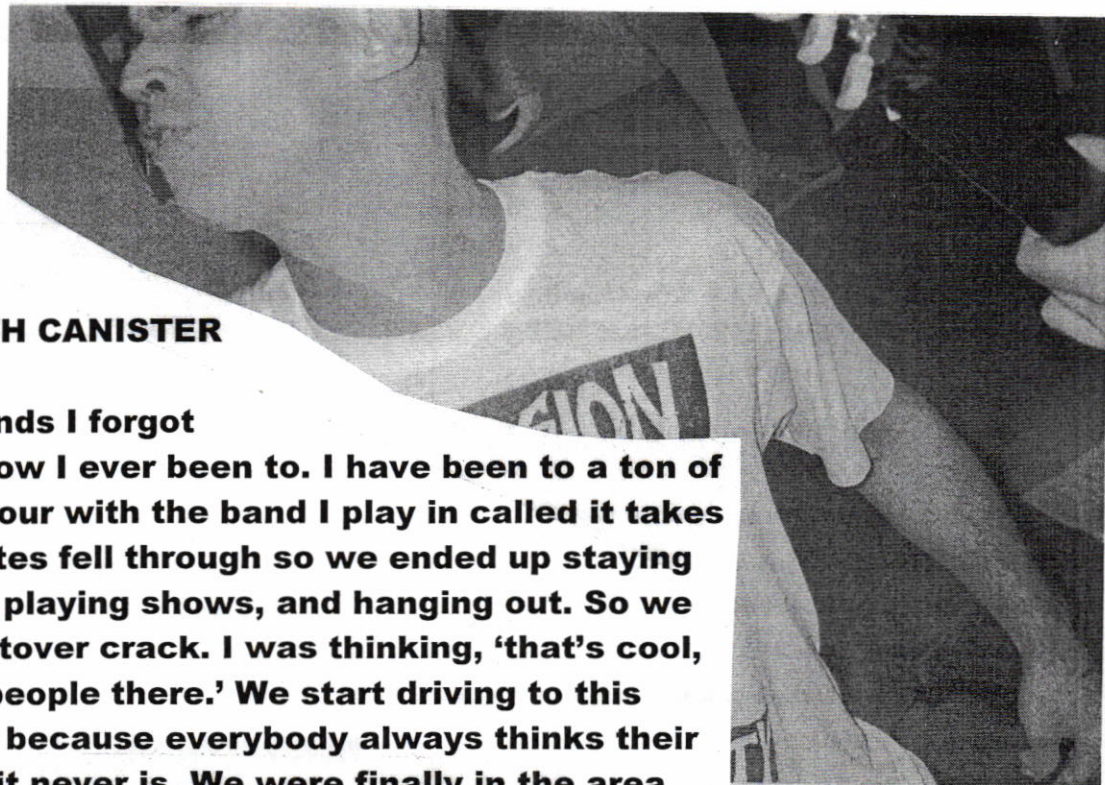


**Every band had so much heart. In Olean there are a lot of small towns around that are a lot closer then you think. A lot of these small towns have somewhat of a scene. One reason I did this show was to bring some of them small towns together. Project reconnect are from emporium pa, which is about 45 minutes away from here. The pullout method is from st Mary's pa, which is about an hour away. So I thought since we are all in the same area we could work together. Thanks to both bands for coming and playing. We need to support each other. I want to know about shows in those areas and I want to play those areas. So if either band reads this, let's work together. And this goes out to anybody in all the small towns in western NY and pa. Lets ban together and make the whole area a lot more fun.**

**LEFT OVER CRACK  
THE FLESHIES  
TOMMY LASORDA  
IT TAKES ALL KINDS  
MEPHISTAPHELES DEATH CANISTER  
GIVE US BARBARUS**

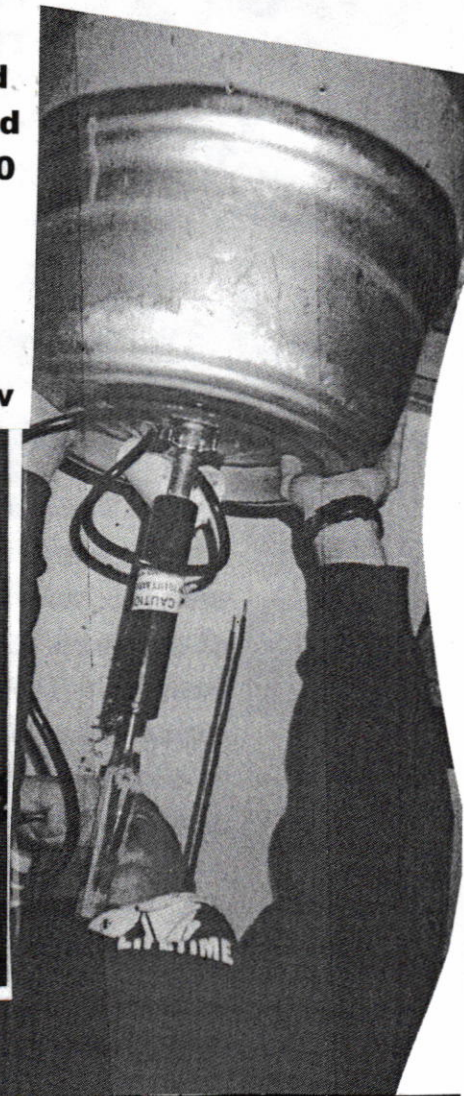
**And some other good bands I forgot**

**This was the craziest show I ever been to. I have been to a ton of shows. Ok, we went on tour with the band I play in called it takes all kinds. A lot of our dates fell through so we ended up staying in new jersey for 4 days, playing shows, and hanging out. So we got on this show with leftover crack. I was thinking, 'that's cool, there should be a lot of people there.' We start driving to this place and we get so lost because everybody always thinks their own way is the best but it never is. We were finally in the area**





around 6:30 (about an hour past when we were supposed to be) But luckily, one of the cars with us had arrived early. So we got to the neighborhood that it was in and it was one of those gated communities. It was so crazy. The guard let us in and we headed up this hill to the house. We saw this giant house with about 200 punk kids all around it. We went inside and there was this full buffet of all vegan food so I ate talked to the locals. Everyone was having a great time. I met the person putting on the show and she was so rad. The first band was called the fleshies from Oakland ca. They were a really awesome band. They have a new



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Q for Treason #2

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PRINTED NOVEMBER 2000



record coming out on alternative tenicales records so please pick it up. Those guys in that band we so cool. We hung out almost the whole show. We played after them and that was a good time. We got a good response and sold a bunch of stuff so that was cool. After us was Mephistopheles death canister (our tour mates.) I really thought a couple kids were going to hurt themselves during their set. They play fast in your face grind, check them out. Then came this band (I can't remember the name) and I had their demo but I lost it. (so if you guys read this, I want another demo.) They were really cool they played old school punk hardcore. It was good to hear. They had a sound you just don't hear anymore. I wish I still knew their name. Then came this awesome crust band. Same with them. They played a style you just don't hear too much anymore, it was cool. One band I do remember the name of was Tommy Lasorda. They were so good, two guys playing fast rocknroll. It was cool (also check them out if you can). The whole show was awesome the way it was set up and the bands all did so well and had their own sound. Then leftover crack's turn came to play. I was not impressed by these guys right when they walked in. They brought beer even after they were told not to but they did anyways. They never watched the bands, they sold t-shirts for 15 bucks and then to top it off, they needed 300 bucks before they would play and said if they didn't get it, they would tear the place apart. This is what I heard before they played so I thought maybe it was a rumor. They played and after they were done, I went up stairs and their they were, bitching to the girl about how they needed 300 bucks to get home but they lived a half hour away. I got into it with them about the money and they just were like dude we need the money. So after a little bit of bitching the singer picked up a lamp and smashed it on the floor and then punched a hole in the wall. So we followed him outside telling each other to fuck off, and the thing that got me the most mad was that his justifying doing this was that these people were rich and they had the money to blow so he said in a way they deserve that. That really bothered me. Just because these kids had money they deserved to get shit on. These people who put on this show were nice people and they deserve to have respect. Yes they



**must have a lot of money but they are giving back to their community, and feeding all these kids and having bands play now that's fucking cool. There are a lot of rich scumbags in the world, but there are also plenty of greedy middle and lower class assholes too. So lets get rid of this fucking class system and built one that works.**

**Now back to the leftover crack kids. They play some real catchy music, I will agree, but I think we need to overlook that in bands and look a little past that. When I got back home after the tour I told some kids about what had happened because that band has a pretty big following in my area and some kids talked about bringing them to the area. Kids were like, 'well they play good music so I will just listen to their music and ignore them.' That does not make much sense to me. Punk is not like mainstream rock. You have to give more than a catchy song or good lyrics. This is a movement and a way of life. So leftover crack- you can fool some kids into believing that you are the coolest but there will always be people like us who know what kind of scumbags you really are.**

## **GO TO SHOWS, HAVE FUN SUPPORT, YOUR FUCKING SCENE**

R  
E  
A  
D

As of late, I have read a lot of band interviews in zines that I have bored me. Some people do big band interviews to get more people to read their zine. I wanted to do some interviews with people that had something to say and that needed to be heard. So I thought I would give these people a forum to say it. Here is a little bit about each person before you read the interview with them so you have an idea about them and what they do and why they are being interviewed.

The first is Dan Cross. Dan is a fulltime activist in buffalo ny. He works with many activist organizations in the buffalo area. He sometimes puts on benefit punk and hardcore shows for food not bombs, political prisons and the fight against the imf the wto and the world bank. Dan has been knocked down many times for the things he does in the fight against the system but he never lets anyone keep him from doing anything. That's the reason why he is in this interview. Dan should be an inspiration to all to never give up and always stand up and never lay down.

The next interview is emmanuel j from ther phillipinnes. This issue theme is about punk so I thought I should let people know about punks from all over the world. I think it is also important to hear about how some punks have it really rough in third world countries like him. Emmanuel does a zine called resist to exist, puts on shows, and just helps the scene try to grow in his homeland. I have been in contact with him for about a year off and on because sometimes you lose contact talking with a punk with an everyday struggle due to nothing being handed to him. Punks like this should be an inspiration to us and really shows us the struggle is worth it.

The next person I believe that is very important is william martinez. He is locked up right now because of unjust laws that you will read more about in his interview. I have been writing to him for a while and the positive attitude this guy has is so impressive. William has stayed so active in the scene from behind bars. It is awesome to see something like that. He talks about what he is going to do when he gets out and things that he wants to change. When I talk to him it's like he is not in jail because he has so much positive energy coming from him. He lets people know that you make your own situation and we can rise over anything if we just try.

If you read anything, please read these interviews. They are the most important part of this zine. These people give their time fighting for your freedom, so give them your time by reading what they have to say. Thanks punks before profits.

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S



# interview with DAN GROSS

PBP: How and when did you get into punk and hardcore?

Dan: I never have really been involved with punk, so I'm going to have to cater my responses to my involvement in the hardcore scene. I first started listening to hardcore in my freshman year of high school, which would have been the 95-96 school year. It was funny because I had this really random hardcore music collection with no coherency to it

What so ever (basically whatever my step brothers left laying around), bands ranging from Korn and Snapcase to like Lockjaw and Threshold. Anyway, so I started listening to hardcore as a freshman, but I really didn't start going to shows until a year later when my parents started letting me do so.

PBP: How did the political side of punk come about for you?

Dan: I don't think the political side of hardcore came out to me on its own, but rather that over time I forced my hardcore experience to become political. I had little to no interest in politics until I was in 11<sup>th</sup> grade, and it most certainly was not a hardcore band or a zine that opened up my eyes. Conversely, it was a missionary from El Salvador that came to speak at the church I used to attend. There I was on the verge of sleep when this guy began speaking about his experiences working with the poverty-stricken of El Salvador, about how citizens and the missionaries alike are targets simply because they speak and act out against the oppressive policies of the government. That missionary busted through my white, middle class, suburban bubble and showed me that this world is screwed up beyond belief. He spoke to me in a way that no other had ever done before. I attribute my political awakening to that man. And it was upon that political awakening that I sought to infuse activism and politics with my life as I knew it, which included searching for the political side of hardcore. I became very partial to bands and zines with a progressive, political message from there on out; and in time I would make literary and musical efforts myself to help spread that progressive, political message.

PBP: In a brief summary, what does punk and hardcore mean to you?



Dan: I've never tried to define what hardcore means to me and I'm not even sure if I can. I know the meaning has most definitely changed over the years; whereas it might have once been a fairly simple definition, it has lost all such simplicity in the present. Hardcore no longer embodies politics and activism for me as it once did. I have learned to be politically and socially active in the absence of hardcore, so inevitably hardcore as it relates to my own person has changed. When I now think of hardcore, I don't think of the scene here in Buffalo - I don't have the time or the desire to partake in the scene and all the petty crap that plagues it. When I think of hardcore and what it means to me I think of those individuals, bands, zines, shows, etc. that have emotionally moved me, that have brought me to another level, to another world where I feel uninhibited by all. A world that is so full of passion and sincerity and emotion and love that I cannot help but strive to stay there for all eternity. And that's the world I am fighting for. So in a way, those rare emotionally moving hardcore experiences serve as a release, sort of an escape from this decadent world into the world that i'd like to someday live in. It would be a mistake to assume that all such experiences originate from hardcore, but presently I'd have to say that a good deal of them do.

PBP: What kind of things do you think we can do to get more punk and hardcore kids into being active in their community besides going to shows? Being active like caring about their community outside of the punk community.

Dan: Getting people active outside of the hardcore scene was something I was completely obsessed about for years. I never did meet much success and the reason being that I came across as an ass hole. I had a holier than thou attitude; I'd tell people that they should get involved in the struggle for social justice because it was their duty, like I had all the answers - I refused to accept my own fallibility. THAT IS NOT THE WAY TO GET PEOPLE INVOLVED! I realized my folly a few years back and then shifted my focus from worrying about others getting involved to finding ways to get myself more involved. I presently don't interact much with my local hardcore scene, but I do feel very strongly that in attempting to get people involved outside of their everyday life, it's very important to relate issues to their everyday life, to show them how things could or do affect them. In addition, making being involved a fun and enjoyable thing will ALWAYS attract more people.



PBP: What groups are you involved with in your community?

Dan: I am not presently involved with any groups in my community for reasons I will explain later on, but I will describe some groups I was recently pretty involved with. Food Not Bombs (FNB) was my main focus. The Buffalo FNB group has made it its mission to create an alternative to the capitalist economy in which food is simply a commodity that goes to the highest bidder. In working to create this alternative, FNB gets food that would normally be thrown away donated from local businesses, prepares the food into a healthy vegan meal, and then shares the meal with anyone who would like it. I think the Buffalo FNB group is a wonderful group and if anyone would like to find out more you can contact Jay at [jmb27@acsu.buffalo.edu](mailto:jmb27@acsu.buffalo.edu). I also did a lot of work with the Buffalo Direct Action Network (BDAN) over this last year. BDAN is a fairly new group dedicated to the vision of a non-hierarchical, egalitarian society, and fights for this vision using direct action tactics, such as subversive media (ie. banner drops). I really enjoyed working with BDAN and would heavily encourage anyone interested in direct action tactics to look into getting involved with an existing direct action group or setting up one yourself. To get in contact with BDAN people can email [buffaloda@hotmail.com](mailto:buffaloda@hotmail.com). Lastly, I've served as the Buffalo area coordinator for the Allegheny Defense Project (ADP) for a year or so now. ADP is an environmental group that focuses on issues concerning the Allegheny National Forest. ADP is not only concerned with the natural health of the forest but also with the health of the communities within the forest: their local economies, employment opportunities, schools, etc. ADP does a lot of amazing work with a very small number of people, which I find truly amazing. To find out more about ADP people can email Rachel at [rmartin@alleghenydefense.org](mailto:rmartin@alleghenydefense.org).

PBP: You had some trouble in Philadelphia at the Republican National Convention. Can you tell us a little bit about that?

Dan: Last summer I traveled to Philadelphia to protest the RNC. Among many, my biggest problem with the RNC went way beyond the convention itself and dealt with the two party political system of the US. If you were to look at the campaign finance records for last year's presidential campaign you would find that both the Republican and Democratic parties had been bought off financially by the same big, multinational corporations. It didn't matter which candidate won the election because the big businesses owned both candidates, and knew that both candidates would serve their greedy, money-driven interests. And the Republican and Democratic National Conventions are not conventions for the people to decide anything, but rather are simply get togethers for rich, white, corporate bastards to celebrate the fact that they make up the ruling



class and therefore call the shots. So I went to Philadelphia to protest this injustice among many others, but had my voice silenced prematurely. It turns out our group got infiltrated by an undercover cop, who ended up driving us right into police custody instead of to the protest. I ended up getting slapped with nine charges (accusing me of ridiculous things that I couldn't have possibly done, especially seeing as how we never even made it to the protest) and was thrown in jail with my bail set at \$25,000. I couldn't believe it. I ended up spending I think 2 days in the holding center, 5 days in a medium/maximum security prison, and then 3 days in a minimum security prison before finally being released. Myself and those I was arrested with went to trial this past February and were found guilty on four counts: possession of an instrument of crime(a lockbox), conspiracy to obstruct a highway, conspiracy to obstruct justice, and (my favorite) conspiracy to commit disorderly conduct. It

was a bench trial which means that the judge makes the ruling. Our judge had been a cop for 23 years before becoming a judge, and consequently was close, personal friends with the prosecutor and all his police buddies. Needless to say, we went into that trial knowing that the judge was not going to rule in our favor. We appealed the ruling right away, demanding a jury trial. I have since dropped out of the appeal and am now on parole for a year, but the rest of my trial group is scheduled to go to trial again in August. There's not a doubt in my mind that they'll be found not guilty, and I would have stayed on with them, but I needed to rid myself of this legal obligation in order to make myself able to leave the area for future plans.

PBP: Some bands in punk today like to attack people for being PC or active, which has caused somewhat of a line down the middle in punk and hardcore. Our scene has suffered from this; has your community? And what do you think about bands like that?

Dan: As I said before, I am not really all that involved in the hardcore scene here in Buffalo, so consequently, am not a good source for a "scene analysis." I can say though that from the shows that I do go to (which are mainly basement shows - I'm not sure if that matters or not) people seem to be pretty receptive to politics. As for bands that criticize being PC or being active, I think it's sad that they cannot respect the drive and conviction that it takes to be politically involved. If they do not choose to be involved that is their decision, but I think a universal respect for others' ambitions is not an outlandish demand.

PBP: To kids that want to do more and get involved with different groups to better their community what can you tell them to check into?



Dan: Since all communities are different, I think that it's important for anyone looking to get involved locally to listen to their community. What are its needs and desires? What are its problems and handicaps? What are people already doing to achieve or fight these things? Can you help them with their existing projects? What sorts of things aren't people doing that maybe you could? There's so many options out there and so many different ways to get involved. You just have to find that which you find is most effective and fulfilling for you as an individual and go for it.

PBP: You have been into the whole punk/hardcore thing for a long time. What do you think about it today compared to yesterday?

Dan: Once again, I am not really too involved with hardcore at this point in my life, so cannot really give a good analysis, but I can speak on my own relation to hardcore. I feel that I am more satisfied presently with hardcore as it relates to my life than I ever have been. My relationship to hardcore, although it was always emotional, was once full of labels, prejudices, insecurities, and other dumb shit. However, I've been slowly breaking away from that over the years and making my hardcore experience more and more sincere and fulfilling. And now I feel that I have come to the core of what hardcore has to offer my person. I am not involved with the hardcore scene simply because I don't feel that the hardcore scene embodies the wonderful things that I draw from my hardcore experience.

PBP: What are some bands to check into that you think represent the true meaning of punk and hardcore?

Dan: I'm going to have to skew this question in order to answer it in good faith. First of all, I do not feel that there is one true meaning of hardcore and punk, so I'm going to have to relate the question to the thing I love most about hardcore: being emotionally moved by the passion and sincerity. Second of all, to restrict such a question to just bands puts me in a difficult situation simply because though there are bands which have moved me, there are also many individuals and publications that have moved me as well. So I'm going to have to proceed as if you had asked me what sorts of things have moved me emotionally like hardcore is able to do. Well, I'd have to say that very few bands have moved me. Trial, a hardcore band from Seattle has always been able to take me up into that other world. Those few times that I've seen Trial have been of the most memorable experiences of my life. Likewise, Catharsis, a hardcore/metal band out of N. Carolina, has that ability to carry me away with emotion. The time that I saw them in DC was probably my best hardcore experience ever. I was untouchable; this world couldn't bring me down that night. And then on the other side of the

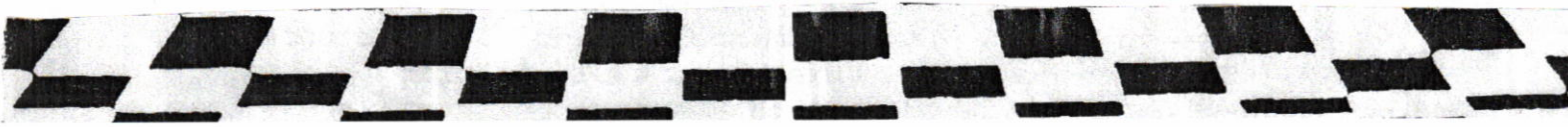


spectrum is Ani Difranco, who is a folk rock singer. Her music has brought me to tears more times than I can even remember - she is definitely my biggest shero.

And of course there's always Neil Young, one of my all-time favorites, another tearjerker in my book. As for individuals I would have to say that the strength and drive that people like Greg Bennick (old singer for Trial), Brian D. (singer for Catharsis), and Ani put into all that they do is truly inspiring beyond belief. I also feel obliged to mention my heroes of times long past - Jesus, Gandhi, John Brown, Handsome Lake, Henry David Thoreau, and George Orwell - for their lives and works have helped to shape the individual that I have become and the route that I choose to follow. As for publications, the main ones that have brought me to unprecedented levels of emotion and passion would have to be the Bible, 1984 by George Orwell, Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck, every issue of Harbinger (publication of the Crimethinc. collective), a few issues of Inside Front, Night by Elie Wiesel, My Life Is My Sun Dance by Leonard Peltier, and Walden by Henry David Thoreau. This is just a rough list of things and people that have moved me. It is by no means an exhaustive list - I've been moved thousands of times and continue to be moved by new things and new people all the time.

PBP: Is there anything that is important to you right now that you are working for or against that people should know about?

Dan: First and foremost, I'd like to thank you for doing this interview- it's been a wonderful experience for myself. I'd also like to take this opportunity though to talk a little bit about something that is presently going on in my life. As I mentioned earlier on in the interview, I have recently detached myself from activism. The reason for this remains unknown to many people, but I don't want it to be so. I've stepped aside from activism as part of a larger goal of stepping aside from this life as a whole. I currently feel lost and without a sense of direction; I do not know where I am going and I most certainly do not feel that my life is wholly fulfilling. In a few weeks I will leave this life to go live out in the woods in solitude for an undetermined amount of time. It is then that I will focus on my life, primarily my spirituality. I have found that I cannot remedy my current situation in this atmosphere - I need to be without human interaction. I feel bogged down in this life and hope that in leaving this life and embracing solitude I will find my direction out of this life and into a life of beauty and wonder. I will "shoot like a rocket through the sky and leave this world in flames."





**1. tell me were you are from and a little about the scene there.**

1) Hi there folks! My name is Emmanuel Jasmin and I'm from the Philippines. I lived in a small farming town (Plaridel) in Bulacan province, which is located 150 kms outside Manila (Phil's capital).

About the scene in my country, well it's quite small compared to the scene in US or Europe and it's mostly composed of different regional, provincial, municipality and city scenes. There are lots of good bands here playing various style of punk/hardcore music. Most of the records here are released in cassette tape format since that is most accessible form of media tool where the bands can spread their music and ideas. Vinyl's are obsolete here while CD's are really fucking hard to obtained due to it's very expensive price. There are also tons of zines to check out here and most of them are written in English. So that's a short info about our scene.

**2. some people think 3rd world country and they think the living conditions are really bad. Is that the case for you or is everyday just another day.**

2) Yeah, It's true that the living conditions in our country is quite bad. You won't be able to survive here if you will not work your ass off. I personally felt and experienced the hardships of life here in first hand and I'm used to it already. The Philippines remain as one of the poorest country in Asia hence it is being labeled or called by its Asian neighbors as "The Sick Man Of Asia" and that's a very sad fact. I think one of the many factors that contributes to worsening poverty problem that our country is experiencing today and in the past decades can be attributed to the continuous manipulation of the US Government in our own political and economic affairs. The US does this through the help of such institutions like the IMF, WB and WTO. Add to that rampant graft and corruption in our Government. Those bastard

politicians don't give a damn about the welfare of their fellow men especially the common people. All they care about is their Multi million Mansion

houses, luxurious cars and large Haciendas! Fuck Them All!

**3. how and when did you get into punk and how old are you now?**

3) I got into punk/hardcore through my 2 older brothers. Before I was really into bands like the Pixies, Teenage Fan club, Popsicle, Red Kross, The Posies and The Chills. I already encountered the word punk and hardcore before through my school mates but I don't have any idea about it. If my memory serves me right I think I was on my 2nd year in high school when my brother brought in some cassette tapes of Dead Kennedys, IOV and Urban Bandits (Both are early Filipino punk bands) then he played it in our old cassette player. I was really blown away but that music because it's very powerful, loud and intense! The energy that those bands had are very different from what I am listening before. Add to that the very intelligent political lyrics that they convey. Since then I started to listen to my brother's punk tapes until one day I found out that I'm totally hooked with it. And the rest was history. I am now 21 years old.

**4. do you think punk is like a family and is that how your scene is?**

4) Yes, I think punk is like a family. This is the only scene that I know where there is camaraderie and solidarity within the people involved with it. Also the feeling of oneness and belonging is very much present. I don't think that you can find or experienced that in the shitty mainstream rock scene like those being offered by bands like Limpbshits or Korny. Yes, even though there are some minor misunderstanding with some of the people involved with it. But I guess it's normal. Every scene experienced that too isn't it?



**5. you do a zine, can you tell us what that is all about, and how it got started.**

5) I do a zine and it's called RESIST TO EXIST. It's a punk/hardcore zine with an emphasis on the Anarchopunk/crust scene. It is basically musical oriented but I tried to feature bands or individuals who has something to say other than just rocking out. I started doing this zine on the latter part of 1998. I find this zine to be the best medium or channel in which I can freely expressed my thoughts and feelings (whatever it maybe) without being censored or suppressed by any outside force through by means of writing it down.

**6. how is your scene, do you belong to any activist groups, and is there any collective spaces, and what are some of the local bands?**

6) If your asking about the Bulacan scene well it's kind of inactive these days due to most of the zinesters /scenesters here are quite busy with their studies and work. But the other scenes outside our province are very much alive and kickin particularly on places like Laguna (Strong South), Lucena City (Far South Resistance Scene), Pampanga (Notorius Scene), Cebu City, Davao City, DOWNTOWN Sampore to name a few. I am one of the many networking confederate of PETA here in the Philippines. We help promoting animal rights awareness and vegetarianism /veganism in and out of the scene by means of spreading leaflets and pamphlets

. About collective spaces, unfortunately we don't have one (I'm talking about the scene in Bulacan). As for local bands, do check out Lie Detector, Disabuse, Paraconflict, AggressiveDogAttack, Antipathy, Catalepsis, Istukas Over Disneyland, Criticks, Bad Omen, xFeudx, Rent A cop, NSA, RDA, Red Corpse, Not 4 sale, PONR, etc.

**7. what are some of the bands that got you into punk?**

7) DeadKennedys, MinorThreat, 7Seconds, Discnarge, Crass, Conflict, The Alternative, Mob 47, Anti Cimex, Skitsystem, Avskum, early Napalm Death (when they are still part of the British punk scene),

Battle Of Disarm, Confuse, Iconoclast, BGK, Disrupt, Destroy and the list goes on.

**8. what do you think about politics in punk? do they belong or no**

8) Of course they do! For me punk without politics isn't punk at all! Isn't it?

**9. the punk hardcore scene in the states has a lot of different groups and in some places they only support their group. You got the crusty kids you got the drug free kids you got the drunk punks you got the emo kids and so on. We are lucky in ~~our~~ scene it is small so we don't have that. What's it like there, does everybody get along or is there different groups and if so do they get along.**

9) Here in the Philippines there are also lot's of different groups, crustypunks, emo, skinheads, Sxe, pop punkers, Hc, etc. Most of them do get along with each other. Infact most of the gigs here features mix bills. I think that kind of "scene rivalry" doesn't exist here and I don't see any valid reason why we should segregate a band or a person just because he/she plays a different style of (punk) music. As far as I know that kind of shit doesn't deserve to be in the punk scene at all. If your mentality is like that then you should be on MTV!!!

**10. what do you think we can do to make punk/hardcore better today?**

10) The best advice that I can think about at the moment is to learn to respect each other's belief. Also tolerance. But I'm not saying that we should tolerate those Nazi/Fascist/ homophobic/pro lifers belief in our scene. Those kind of dogmatic way of thinking doesn't have a place in our scene (or even outside the scene at all). We all know that it's totally wrong!



11.Thanks for your time any last words you want to say

11) I would like to thank Ryan for this interview. I hope you're quite satisfied with my answers and best of luck to all your projects. Also if anyone out there wants to know more about the scene in the Philippines or want to hear records or read zines from here well just write me and I'll be very glad to help you. Also friendship and correspondence are very much welcome!!!!UP THE PUNX!!

Emmanuel E. Jasmin  
299 Bintog, Plaridel,  
Bulacan 3004  
Philippines/Asia

evil  
mail:[emmancore@edsamail.com.ph](mailto:emmancore@edsamail.com.ph)

23-year-old social justice activists shot twice in  
the head and run over by police in Genoa, Italy

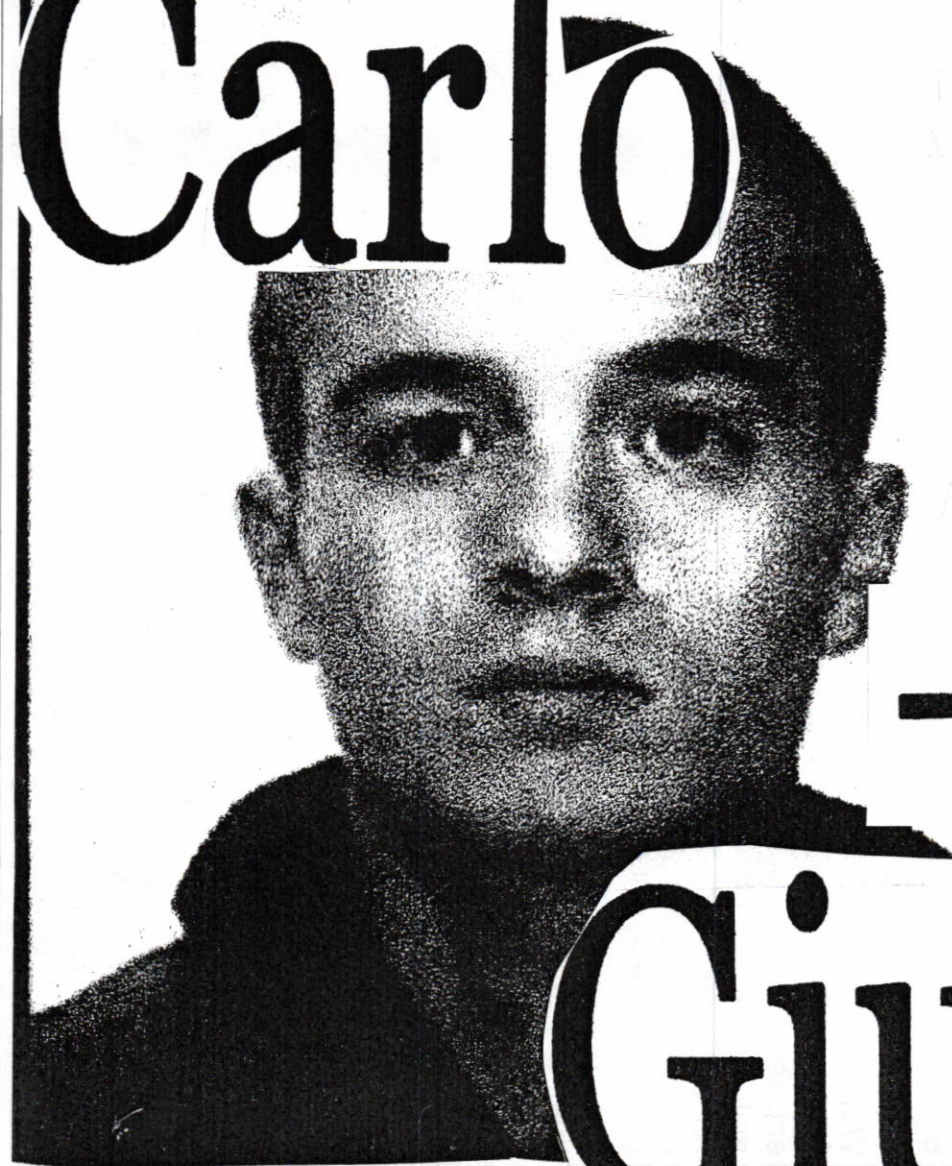
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while protesting  
corporate greed!

1978

- 2001

Giuliani





## *interview with William Martinez*

PBP: How did you get involved in the punk/hc scene?

WM: That is a good question that I love telling people. I had a god brother in long island that was into punk when I wasn't. When I was 12 I went to see him for Thanksgiving and he told me about the SEX PISTOLS. I listened to them and was just blown away. I felt the passion and anger, I never knew there was such a thing. I was always curious about the punk culture, then I discovered bands like GG ALLIN and MDC through my god brother. It was a whole new world to me. I threw away all my QUIET RIOT/ METALLICA/ and other crap and got some mix tapes. I later got into the political punk scene and discovered activism and the anarchist ideology. In reality I have my god brother to thank.

PBP: When did you get into politics?

WM: When I first got into politics I was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. I discovered books by Henry Miller, Lydia Lunch, George Orwell, Murray Bookchin, ect, ect. And there were a lot of people that where caught up in the materialistic item faze and I hated it. I saw them as conformist, the American dream, it scared me that I may turn out like that. A corporate zombie. Later that week I went to a show and went to a table where they sold books and told them about my situation. They told me about a Collective called CWP (Class War Punks). I joined them and we would meet and read political books and look at the ADVOCATE a CT paper and look up the activist section and go when there was a protest. We made our own little cardboard puppets and meet people at protests. I met some of the best people there. Ever since then I have gotten farther into my political activism.

PBP: What do you think about politics in punk?

WM: I believe that politics have to play a big part in punk. I believe that if they didn't, then we wouldn't be true to its roots. I honestly believe that most punks agree with that. We attack all conformist values and corporations through music and out diy values. We are a whole different world that doesn't want to get involved with capitalism while is politics, so we need to attack it, and some people don't read books, which is sad, so we get to them through music.

PBP: Are you sxe or not and how does it play a role in your revolutionary ideals?

WM: I am sxe and vegan. And it is very important FOR ME. I am against drugs. If you do drugs to open your ideas or use them as a crutch to be social or to do art then I think it's sad. Instead of drugs you can escape through watching tv or eating good food. Being drug free makes this world one less argument, one less war, one less fight, it's revolutionary. That's the anarchist I am talking about. Instead of drugs we need to communicate more. We need to be more aware at all times of this ever-changing world. And when you are drunk or high I really don't want you to be a speaker for our collective. I also believe that our bodies are very important. If you are a vegan to save the animals but then you are a drunk then I think you need to save yourself as well.

PBP: Tell us a little about what punk means to you.

WM: It is totally DIY. Being yourself always. Meeting new people. Being open minded. Getting close to people you just met who have the same ideals. Living life how you want and not how others tell you to. Being truly at peace with yourself. Discovering yourself every day. It never ends, the greatness to me.

PBP: Tell us a little about why you are in jail.

WM: I will give you a quick washed down version. If you want to know the whole case, write to me and I will tell you it all, it's really crazy. I was passing FNB out in a park and a cop told me to leave. I refused and he took my backpack full of flyers. I asked for it back and he told me to leave. I refused. He got in my face and pushed me repeatedly. I said stop but he continued. So out of fear I pushed him back. I grabbed my bag and ran. He chased me and tackled me and then beat me up and charged me with 3<sup>rd</sup> degree assault. 3 years in jail. It has made me a stronger person though. I will be into prison reform activism when I get out, as I have first hand experienced it!

PBP: To you, is punk still alive and kicking?



WM: Punk is not dead. Punk that the punk scene is changing and evolving everyday for the better. More women are getting involved. At times I got frustrated when rancid went on mtv. But over all, the scene is getting bigger and better. In CT the only problem is that the shows aren't run by punks, so the punk values aren't there.

We really have a strong scene in CT but the issue is that the shows aren't run by punks and that causes chaos because we go to the punk venue shows and destroy all, and a lot of people who run them are corrupt and that is sad. I think we should run our own shows because only we know what we want. Not some money hungry capitalist. When I get out, I plan to work with some friends on opening an info shop with shows. I would love to do something like ABC NO RIO in NYC.

PBP: What are some things we can do to make our scene more aware of what is really going on in the world such as what happened to you?

WM: What people need to do is learn about the prison industrial complex, find out about other anarchists that are in jail, you will be surprised. Learn about prison support for anarchist collectives like political prisoners of war colation, anarchist prisoners legal aid network. There is a lot of collectives that work with jails. To avoid what happened to me, you should start a cop watch in your area. Get involved with your community. This can happen to anyone. Lastly remember, we are here because we believe in the same stuff as you do. We tried to make a change in the capitalist world. Some peaceful, some violent. (mumia, Unabomber, free, critter, the list goes on) You have to remember the founding people of the anarchist culture were in jail or exile to escape jail (emma goldman, alex berkman, peter kropotkin, nestor makhno, and many others, I am not telling you to break the law and get arrested. We need you out there. Just remember us. Take ryan for example, he has shown his complete solidarity, he has taken time out for me.

PBP: Any bands that got you into punk and got you to get up and do something?

WM: The bands that most influenced me to do something were crass and ausrotten. When I discovered crass, I also discovered the peace punk scene and it just moved me. Everything about the band. When I heard crass I just wanted to change the world. I wanted to help everyone. The inspired me to start a crust band. If you haven't heard them, please do. They will also change you and make you realize the power of DIY.

PBP: What do you think about the bands that use words just to offend people such as fag or gay and so on but they say it is all in good fun. For example: anal cunt, the meatmen, fear?

WM: I don't subscribe to those bands that claim it is in all good fun because words do hurt. I mean, listen to the names of the albums. Meatmen: crippled children suck or the Nobody's: great tits and ass. That isn't good fun. It's degrading to towards women and racist and morally wrong. People like that only make people that just joined the scene confused about our views and might be pushed away. I went to a show in 96 to see Lagwagon and a girl that was close to me had gotten groped and she had shunned the scene for a while. It really saddened me. I asked her who did it and she pointed them out to me at another show. I told them that they weren't allowed in any punk shows in CT and I meant it. People fail to realize the influence of music and the words. Sexist, homophobic, age, handicap, and insults are wrong and shouldn't be tolerated. It is bad enough the towns want to close our scene down and we are misunderstood by the media.

PBP: Any last things you might want to say to the kids just getting into the whole thing and thanks for your time.

WM: If you are just discovering this culture- don't leave it. It's an incredible culture that accepts you for who you are. When I first found out I had ADD I was ashamed and in denial. But when I discovered this scene I saw that the people were open so I opened up. Now I am proud of having ADD. It is me. Or at least a part of me. Punk has made me open up to feelings and emotions. We don't revolve around material items and anger. Just be open minded. And try to pass on the DIY ethics to others along with our passion of life alright. Also ryan thanks for your time. All you readers, peace love and empathy.



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